Merging of Mecon Limited with SAIL

†2189. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for merging Mecon Limited of Jharkhand with the Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the view point of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Mecon's employee unions have been consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) A proposal had been received from Mecon Limited for its merger with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL).

(b) The Government propose to continue Mecon as an independent entity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Steel Policy

2190. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to announce a new steel policy; if so, by when;

(b) whether Government are projecting ten per cent growth rate for steel sector in the country;

(c) whether Government have set up any expert committee to formulate guidelines for allocating mining leases for iron ore, manganese and chrome ore in the country; and

(d) if so, by when the committee is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Steel Policy will be announced after the approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The National Steel Policy envisages an indigenous steel production of about 110 million tonnes per annum by 2020, which implies a compounded annual growth of 7.4 per cent.

(c) Ministry of Steel has constituted an 'expert group' with the following terms of reference;

> "To formulate guidelines pertaining to Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore regarding giving preferential mining rights to certain persons by the State Government under Section 11(5) of MMDR Act. 1957."

(d) The 'expert group' is expected to submit its recommendation by the end of this month.

Factories set up by SAIL

†2191. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the factories set up by Steel Authority of India Ltd. in the country together with the location thereof;

(b) the profit earned by these factories separately during the last four years; year-wise; and

(c) the amount of re-investment made in Chhattisgarh out of the amount of profit earned by the Bhilai Steel Plant situated in the State during the last four years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The location-wise details of the steel plants under Steel Authority of India Limited and profits before tax (PBT)/loss of the company in the last four years, year-wise are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Plant	Location	Profit/Loss			
		01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05
Bhilai Steel Plant	Bhilai, Chhattisgarh	477	735	1932	4042
Durgapur Steel Plant	Durgapur, West Bengal	-262	-247	81	784
Rourkela Steel Plant	Rourkela, Orissa	-1036	-593	-109	1045
Bokaro Steel Plant	Bokaro, Jharkhand	-459	311	1120	3290

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.